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A Few Basic Facts

Editor of The Transcript:

Having read in your issue of November 6 a letter by Mr. Carlo Valone praising the student protesters who took it upon themselves to decide what was right for Williams College, I have taken it upon myself to remind Mr. Valone of a few basic facts.

With all due respect, I would remind him that Williams is a private institution and that it reserves the right to make its campus facilities available to whomever it pleases. When students come to Williams it is natural to assume that they do so because they respect the judgments and values that Williams represents. If students don't like a college policy they have a right to make their views known through normal channels; or, if this is not dramatic enough, they can pack up their bags and leave.

Whether the CIA is "tyrannical and autonomous" or not is beside the point. The visit could just as well have been made by Ho Chi Minh or the Audubon Society. The fact remains that the CIA was extended the use of college facilities and should have been shown as much courtesy as any visitor. What about the students who had planned interviews with the CIA? Why should they have been forced to reschedule their interviews off campus just because a group of "self-serving" students didn't think the way they did? I agree with Mr. Valone that "the function of a liberal education is to free men from the dogmas and ideologies of society . . ." I do not feel, however, that it is the function of a liberal education to free the student from responsible behavior or from some degree of loyalty to the institu-

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tion that grants him that liberal education.

Having once been a student of Mr. Valone, I'm sure that he remembers that I did not always agree with his positions, but that I at least tried to respect his "right to dissent." How would it have been if I had tried to block his entrance to the classroom just because I did not agree with him? I never tried such an immature stunt, but I know that if I had I would now be finishing my secondary education in a different school.

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